

# News Release

# Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 19, 2000

## DOMENICI: LAS CRUCES COURT YOUTH CENTER RECEIVES \$462,500

### Senator Secured Funding Through FY 2000 Funding Bill

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today reported that \$462,500 in federal funding he secured last year has been awarded to help renovate the Las Cruces Court Youth Center, a city landmark used for youth after school programs and community activities.

Domenici, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, secured the funding through FY 2000 Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agency (VA-HUD) Appropriations Act.

"I am so pleased to finally see these resources awarded to the Court Youth Center, which is providing a wonderful service for the young people of Las Cruces," Domenici said. "This funding will help the city renovate the 1940s-era facility for the entire community to enjoy."

The \$462,500 was provided through HUD's Community Development Block Grant/Economic Development Initiative program. The federal funding will be used to renovate the second floor of the Court Youth Center, an historic 1940s era school built as a WPA project. Over the past few years, the city of Las Cruces has spent \$1.4 million to serve more than 9,000 children through creative after-school programs. The facility is also used for other community events.

In April 1999, Domenici announced that Court Youth Center had been awarded a \$432,469 grant to expand its after-school, weekend and summer programs in six high poverty schools for more than 1,240 students. The center focuses on arts-based and career-focused activities that are linked to school curriculum in reading, math, science, creative thinking and life skills. The funding was provided through the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program enables schools to stay open longer, providing a safe haven for children, intensive tutoring in basic skills, drug and violence prevention counseling, and opportunities to participate in supervised recreation, chorus, band, the arts, technology education programs and services for children and youth with disabilities.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, recent studies show that adolescents who are unsupervised after school are more likely to use alcohol and other

drugs. Studies by the FBI and youth-advocacy groups have found that the peak hours for juvenile crime and victimization are from 2-8 p.m. -- hours when youth are most often without supervision.